Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method to maintain a communication[s] connection through a firewall in a network used for pushing information to and receiving information from a mobile device, comprising:

      a.   sending a first heartbeat signal between the mobile device and an asset server;

      b.   receiving the first heartbeat signal at the firewall;

      c.   opening a hole in the firewall to allow communication between the mobile device and the asset server;

      d.   holding the hole open for a first set period of time; and,

      e.   sending a successive communication before the first set period of time expires, wherein the successive communication causes the firewall to leave the hole open for a second set period of time.

2.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network is a wireless network.

3.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network is a packet-switched network.

4.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1, wherein the successive communication is information the mobile device sends to the asset server through the hole.

5.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 4, wherein the mobile device is part of an asset in an asset tracking system.

6.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 5, wherein the sent information pertains to an asset position.

7.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to claim 6, wherein the asset position is information about one of GPS coordinates, directions, speed, LORAN position, or street address.

8.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 7, wherein the GPS coordinates are provided by a GPS receiver communicatively coupled to the mobile device.

9. – 13.   CANCELLED.

14.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1, wherein the successive communication is information the mobile device receives from the asset server through the hole.

15.   CANCELLED.

16.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, wherein the mobile device is part of an asset in an asset tracking system.

17.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 16, wherein the received information pertains to at lest one other asset in the asset tracking system.

18.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 16, wherein the received information pertains to a position to which the asset should proceed.

19.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 18, wherein the received information includes real-time information.

20.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 19, wherein the real-time information is about a status of a location at the position.

21.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 20, wherein the real-time information includes one of blueprints, occupancy, items stored at the location, a history of the location, or a history of occupants at the location.

22.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 21, wherein the real-time information is about one of a traffic condition, a light signal, a traffic accident, a best route, or a parking condition.

23.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 19, wherein the real-time information is imagery of the position.

24.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 23, wherein the imagery includes satellite imagery.

25.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1, wherein the successive communication is a successive heartbeat.

26.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1, wherein the heartbeat signal is specific to the mobile device that originates the heartbeat.

27.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 26, wherein the heartbeat is a digital signal, wherein the digital signal includes at least one bit that identifies the mobile device.

28. – 31.   CANCELLED.

32.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1, wherein the mobile device is a cellular device.

33.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 32, wherein the cellular device sends and receives digital signals.

34.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 33, wherein the cellular device includes a digital modem to send data to and receive data from the cellular network.

35.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 34, wherein the cellular device multiplexes a plurality of data streams into an out-going data stream.

36.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 35, wherein the plurality of data streams includes one of voice data, asset position data, asset status data, the heartbeat, or mobile device identifier.

37.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1, wherein a first heartbeat includes a dynamic IP address for the mobile device.

38.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1, wherein the asset server record the dynamic IP address to communicate with the mobile device in the future.

39.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication system to maintain a hole in a firewall, comprising:

    a.   a mobile device;

    b.   a wireless network connected in communication with the mobile device, wherein the wireless network includes a firewall; and

    c.   an asset server connected in communication to the ~~cellular~~ wireless network; [and,]

    ~~d.   wherein a first heartbeat sent~~ said mobile device being operative to send a heartbeat between the mobile device and the asset server so as to opens the hole in the firewall and at least one successive communication so as to maintains the hole.

40.   (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 39, wherein the mobile device is a cellular device.

41.   (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 39, wherein the wireless network is a cellular network.

42. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 39, wherein the wireless network is a packet-switched network.

43. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 39, wherein the communications system is part of an asset tracking system.

44. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 43, wherein the mobile device is part of an asset in the asset tracking system.

45. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 44, wherein the mobile device sends information to the asset server through the hole.

46. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 45, wherein the sent information pertains to an asset position.

47. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 46, wherein the asset position is information about one of GPS coordinates, directions, speed, LORAN position, or street address.

48. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 47, wherein the GPS coordinates are provided by a GPS receiver communicatively coupled to the mobile device.

49. – 53. CANCELLED.

54. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 39, wherein the asset server pushes information to the mobile device through the hole.

55. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 54, wherein the pushed information pertains to at least one other asset in the asset tracking system.

56. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 54, wherein the pushed information pertains to a position to which the asset should proceed.

57. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 56, wherein the pushed information includes real-time information.

58. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 56, wherein the real-time information includes information about a status of a location at the position.

59. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 58, wherein the real-time information includes one of blueprints, occupancy, items stored at the location, a history of the location, a history of occupants at the location.

60. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 39, wherein the successive communication is a successive heartbeat.

61. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 39, wherein the heartbeat is specific to the mobile device that originates the heartbeat.

62. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 61, wherein the heartbeat is a digital signal, wherein the digital signal includes a plurality of bits that identify the mobile device.

63. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 39, wherein the cellular device sends and receives digital signals.

64. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 39, wherein the cellular device includes a digital modem to send data to the wireless network.

65. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 39, wherein the cellular device multiplexes a plurality of data streams into an out-going data stream.

66. (ORIGINAL) A communication system according to claim 65, wherein the plurality of data streams includes one of voice data, asset position data, asset status data, the heartbeat, or mobile device identifier.

67. – 122. CANCELLED.

123. (NEW) A method for use in pushing data to a mobile device in a packet switched network, comprising the steps of:

operating the mobile device to transmit at least one heartbeat signal between the mobile device and an asset server, wherein said at least one heartbeat signal is received by a firewall and opens a hole in the firewall and maintains the hole in an open state for a time period so as to allow communication between the mobile device and the asset server; and

receiving, at the mobile device, push data from the asset server transmitted to said mobile device during said time period when said hole in said firewall remains open, said push data being transmitted to said mobile device free from a specific request from said mobile device.

124. (NEW) The method as set forth in Claim 123, wherein said step of operating further comprises populating a data field of said heartbeat signal with content identifying said heartbeat signal as a heartbeat signal.

125. (NEW) The method as set forth in Claim 123, wherein said step of operating comprises transmitting a series of heartbeat signals to maintain said hole in said firewall.